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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/273,784	03/22/1999	JOHN G. MCBRIDE	10971308-1	7570

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THAI Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2123

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/273,784

Applicant(s)

John McBride

Examiner

Thai Phan

Art Unit

2123



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the c v r she t with the correspondenc address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sept. 24, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the rights is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle 835 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the applica

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from considera

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirem

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapprov

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed Sept. 24, 2001. Claims 1-20 are pending in this official action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 15-20 are directed to a computer program with a list of program features as claimed. The claimed computer program with features as claimed are not a statutory subject matter because it is not transformed into a useful product carrying a practical application as stated in 101 title.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al., patent no. 5,446,674.

As per claims 1 and 15, Ikeda anticipated method and operation system for checking design rule as claimed. According to Ikeda, the method and system for design rule checker includes a computer configured to execute a rule checker program, wherein the design rule being checked for an integrated circuit design having gates, gate connected in datapath or along circuit paths including static gate characteristics, transistor parameters such as width, length, connected in device channel, etc. (see cols. 2-7). The program is designed to check noise susceptible in the circuit (col. 2, lines 7-24), including checking noise immunity as claimed because they are parts of noise control scheme.

As per claim 2, Ikeda anticipated reading transistor design parameters for design rule check as claimed.

As per claims 3-7, the rule checker program as in the art of record obtains transistor design parameters or extracting the design parameters as claimed, and checks with the operating conditions as claimed (“Summary of the Invention”).

As per claim 8, Ikeda anticipated the method for checking design rule including checking transistor design parameters in compatible with different operating conditions or with different transistor layout configuration such that susceptible noise would be checked for high power voltage, heat generation, different transistor threshold, etc., “Background of the Invention”, col. 2, lines 7-24.

As per claims 9-14, due to the similarity of claims 9-14 to claims 2-7; therefore, claims 9-14 are also rejected in like manner.

Similarly, claims 16-20 are also rejected under the same rationales as above because the claims are directed to computer program codes, when executed (hopefully), for performing steps of rule check, and controlling an apparatus for performing steps as in claims 2-7 and in claims 9-14.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Phan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3812.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

November 30, 2001



KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER